

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on 12/04/09 canceling all claims drawn to the elected invention and presenting only claims drawn to a non-elected invention is non-responsive (MPEP § 821.03). The remaining claims are not readable on the elected invention because the newly claimed invention in claims 171-286 is not directed to the original elected claimed invention (claims 134-140, 155-170).

This evidence by the newly claimed invention is directed to a method implemented by a computer server system programmed for collective evaluation of set of entries by a plurality of participants; the set of entries is evaluated using the cascade method/algorithm, e.g. *"receiving a first subset of the plurality of participants first evaluations evaluating respective ones of the set of entries; receiving from a second subset of the plurality of participants second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations; deriving third evaluations of respective ones of the plurality of participants based at least in part on a plurality of the second evaluations; rating the entries based at least in part on the first, second and third evaluations; While the cancelled claimed is directed to a method of operating a collaborative support system, comprising: "making available a plurality of alternatives for collaborative support process of said system; and "applying one or more support processes active within said system to select for use one or more said alternatives".*

The pending claims have been cancelled and new claims which do not further limit the originally claimed invention have been added. The Examiner finds that the new claims relate to a different aspect of the invention. Thus, the new claims relate to an

invention that is independent and distinct from the originally claimed invention and will not be considered.

Applicant may want to consider filing a divisional application. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a bona fide attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy-Vi Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on 571-272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Janice A. Mooneyham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689

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